

Clark County Coroner
1704 Pinto Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89106
(702) 455-3210



AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: [REDACTED]

October 3, 2017

AUTOPSY REPORT

PATHOLOGIC EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF




DIAGNOSES

1. Multiple Gunshot Wounds of the Back (see injury description).
2. Hemothorax, Bilateral, Chest.
3. Pale Internal Organs consistent with Acute Blood Loss.
4. Pulmonary Edema, Bilateral, Lungs.

OPINION

CAUSE OF DEATH: The cause of death of this [REDACTED] year-old [REDACTED] female, [REDACTED] is MULTIPLE GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF THE BACK.

MANNER OF DEATH: HOMICIDE.


Lary Simms, DO, MPH (DABP-AP, CP, FP)
Medical Examiner
Clark County, Nevada (Las Vegas)

DATE: Dec 20 2017

LS/kra/amu

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October 3, 2017

POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF

[REDACTED]

NOTICE: Forensic, medical and scientific evidence as proof of a fact can establish that fact to an extent varying between slight possibility to certainty. The minimal standard of proof for all conclusions in this report is to a reasonable degree of scientific, medical and forensic certainty; the degree of certainty for any given conclusion in this report can range from this lowest standard of certainty up to beyond a reasonable doubt.

The manner of death is based on the information available at the time of signature.

AUTOPSY: Date of pronounced death is October 1, 2017. The autopsy is performed by Lary Simms, DO, MPH, Medical Examiner, at 1750 hours, October 3, 2017.

CLOTHING: The body is received unclothed. A paper identification bracelet is present on the right wrist; accompanying the body are boots, blue jacket, patterned underwear, blue top, and jean pants.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION: The body is that of a normally developed [REDACTED] adult. Rigor mortis is minimal and symmetrical. Lividity is present posteriorly. The head hair is light and long. The unshaved scalp is unremarkable. The eyes are closed. The corneas are cloudy. The irides are dark. The nose, lips and mouth are unremarkable. The teeth are natural and in fair repair. No injuries are identified to the external neck. The chest and abdomen show no evidence of natural disease. The extremities are equally and symmetrically developed. Fingerprint ink is present on the hands bilaterally. The fingernails and toenails are medium in length and the toenails demonstrate decoration. The external genitalia are female and otherwise unremarkable. The back and buttocks show no evidence of natural disease.

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INVENTORY OF TATTOOS:

COMMENT: Multiple tattoos are present, some of which are as follows:

1. A leaf located on the right lateral abdomen.
2. A leaf located on the volar surface of the left lower arm.

INVENTORY OF RADIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS:

COMMENT: Digital radiographs are interpreted on an ENTUITIVE monitor; extracorporeal objects are present; degenerative skeletal change is present.

1. Postmortem regional radiographs of the head and neck are unremarkable.
2. Postmortem regional radiograph of the chest demonstrates opacification of the right lung field associated with pneumothorax; a right-to-left mediastinal shift is present; a deformed small caliber bullet is projected over the right lung field.
3. Postmortem regional radiographs of the abdomen and pelvis detect multiple ballistically significant and insignificant bullet and jacket fragments projected over the lower thoracic vertebral column at the T11-T12 area.
4. Postmortem regional radiographs of the extremities are unremarkable.

INVENTORY OF GUNSHOT INJURY:

1. Located in the left lower back in close proximity to each other are two gunshot wounds of entrance: the superior gunshot wound is located 21.1 inches from the top of the head and 2.6 inches to the left of midline and

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measures 0.18 inch in dimension associated with a central hole measuring 0.08 in dimension and a circumferential abrasion collar measuring up to 0.05 inch in dimension and the inferior wound is located 22.1 inches from the top of the head and 2.8 inches to the left of midline and measures 0.22 inch in overall dimension associated with a central hole measuring 0.12 inch in dimension and a circumferential abrasion collar measuring up to 0.05 inch in dimension.

The two bullets course in close proximity through the skin and subcutaneous tissues of the left lower back and course directly into the posterior elements of the thoracic vertebral column at the T11-T12 area resulting in multiple fractures.

The thoracic spinal canal is exposed via anterior approach and the membranous compartments demonstrate epidural, subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhage; serial sectioning of the thoracic spinal cord demonstrates a broad area of central hemorrhage.

Jacket and lead fragments are recovered from the thoracic vertebral column.

Only the superior bullet exits from the right lateral aspect of the thoracic vertebral column at the T11-T12 area and courses upward through the lower lobe and upper lobe of the right lung and a deformed small caliber red bullet with small jacket fragment are recovered from the right pleural cavity.

The right pleural cavity contains 2200 ml of liquid blood and 150 grams of clot; the left pleural cavity contains 200 ml of liquid blood.

The right hemidiaphragm demonstrates contusion and the lower lobe of the right lung demonstrates contusion.

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The two bullets course in close proximity from back-to-front, left-to-right and upward. Examination of both wounds of entrance show no evidence of close-range firing.

INVENTORY OF ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:

1. The arms bilaterally demonstrate scattered irregular and curvilinear hyperpigmented and hypopigmented areas.
2. The legs bilaterally demonstrate scattered irregular and curvilinear hyperpigmented and hypopigmented areas.
3. The right elbow demonstrates an irregular 0.8 inch abrasion.
4. The front of the right lower leg demonstrates a curvilinear ecchymosis.
5. The left hip and left lateral abdomen demonstrate several irregular ecchymoses.
6. The base of the left thumb demonstrates a punctate abrasion.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

MEASUREMENTS AND WEIGHTS (approximate/estimate only):

Height:	68 inches
Weight:	176 pounds
Heart:	305 grams
Lungs:	800 grams
Liver:	1700 grams
Spleen:	110 grams
Kidneys:	230 grams
Brain:	1330 grams

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BODY CAVITIES: The body is entered by a Y-shaped incision. Except for the findings previously described, the peritoneal surfaces of the body cavities are unremarkable. The internal organs that are present retain their normal anatomic position and relationships.

NECK ORGANS: The tongue shows no external injury and on serial sectioning is unremarkable. The surfaces of the epiglottis show no abnormalities.

The suprahyoid and infrahyoid (strap) muscles of the neck are dissected in layers and show no evidence of antemortem hemorrhage.

The hyoid bone is dissected. The synchondroses of the hyoid bone are partially fused and intact. The greater horns of the hyoid bone show no evidence of fracture or periosteal hemorrhage.

The thyroid cartilage is dissected. The superior horns and laminae show no evidence of fracture or perichondral hemorrhage.

The cricoid cartilage ring is dissected. The cricothyroid membrane shows no evidence of hemorrhage. The cricoid cartilage shows no evidence of fracture or perichondral hemorrhage.

The prevertebral soft tissue and muscles of the cervical vertebral column show no evidence of antemortem hemorrhage. The anterior cervical vertebral column shows no evidence of hemorrhage, fracture or dislocation.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The aorta and great vessels demonstrate yellow streaking. The coronary arteries have a normal surface course and configuration; the coronary circulation is right dominant. On serial sectioning the left coronary artery system and the right coronary artery system exhibit no significant pathologic changes.

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The valves of the heart are unremarkable. The ventricular chambers are unremarkable. On serial sectioning the myocardium displays no focal pathologic changes.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: The trachea and major bronchi are unremarkable. The pulmonary vessels are unobstructed. On serial sectioning, in addition to the findings previously described, the pulmonary parenchyma demonstrates generalized edema.

HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM: The capsular surface of the liver is smooth and without adhesions. On serial sectioning the hepatic parenchyma has a pale tan-yellow color and a firm consistency. The gallbladder and biliary tract are unremarkable.

HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEM: The capsular surface of the spleen is smooth and without adhesions. On serial sectioning the splenic parenchyma is pale and otherwise unremarkable. The internal lymph nodes identified are unremarkable.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM: The esophagus is unremarkable. Stomach content is a few milliliters of brown fluid. The stomach, small bowel and colon are unremarkable. The pancreas has a normal size and on serial sectioning is pale.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The renal surfaces are granular. On serial sectioning the renal cortex has a normal thickness and is pale. The calyces, pelves and ureters are unremarkable.

The uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries are present and unremarkable. The endometrium is thin.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The thyroid gland has a normal size and on serial sectioning is pale. The adrenal glands have a normal size and on serial sectioning are pale. The rest of the endocrine system shows no identifiable abnormalities.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM: The scalp, subscalp soft tissue and calvaria show no evidence of injury. On entering the cranial

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cavity the membranous compartments are free of hemorrhage. The leptomeninges and the surfaces of the cerebral hemispheres are unremarkable. The vessels at the base of the brain have a normal configuration. The base of the skull shows no evidence of injury. On serial sectioning the brain is pale and reveals no grossly visible changes of natural disease.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE RECOVERY AND DISPOSITION:

1. Deformed small caliber lead bullet recovered from the right pleural cavity to custody of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.
2. Small caliber jacket fragments recovered from the thoracic vertebral column to custody of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

FLUIDS AND TISSUES SUBMITTED:

1. Postmortem chest blood.
2. Vitreous humor.
3. Urine.
4. Liver tissue.
5. Bile.
6. Brain tissue.
7. Autopsy tissue to stock.

TESTING ORDERED:

1. Toxicologic analysis [NMS: Basic] on autopsy blood.